

**December 14-16, 2013**

**Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.**

**The Macomb Daily: State Supreme Court mulls Macomb County murder case**

"Macomb prosecutors will lose their chance to try to send a man to prison for life without parole if the state Supreme Court rules against them in a case heard last week. The state's high court on Tuesday listened to arguments in the case of Dwayne Wilson, who was convicted of felony murder for the 2009 fatal shooting of Kenyetta Williams, 32, the boyfriend of his ex-girlfriend, in a Warren condominium."

[Full story](#)

**The Oakland Press Blog: Michigan Supreme Court Embraces "Selfie" Lexicon**

"The Oxford University Press has designated the slang term 'selfie' as the word of the year. For our over-50 readers, a selfie is when a person takes a picture of themselves, or a part of themselves - usually on their cell phone - and transmits it to another person. We here in the 313 can agree that the word has picked-up some credibility thanks to Judge Wade McCree's legal troubles."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**Prisoner seeks review of former governor's commutation grant – and denial – in appeal Supreme Court hears this week**

**Also before the Court: Ethics charges against judge who had affair with litigant**

[Press release](#)

**Lansing State Journal: Pastor Jerry Kissling: Justin's story and the power of faith**

"'I think we should adopt him.' With these simple words began a journey of discovery that revealed some very dark and dangerous places hitherto unexplored within my soul. [Jerry and Bonnie Kissling recently adopted Justin Kissling during Clinton County's Michigan Adoption Day held at the Clinton County Courthouse. Jerry Kissling shares the family's story of deciding to foster and then adopt.]"

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**Lansing State Journal: Editorial: Michigan needs more foster families**

[Full story](#)

**Lansing State Journal: Jose Carrera: Help fill the state's acute need for foster parents**

[Full story](#)

**The Detroit News: Wayne County jail funding fight due in court today**

"Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon is looking to have a judge settle a long-running multimillion-dollar dispute over jail funding as the county tries to rein in overspending. Wayne Circuit Judge Timothy Kenny has a hearing set for today to weigh Napoleon's contention he needs an extra \$20 million this year, or about \$115 million total, to properly run the jail instead of the slightly less than \$95 million budget he received for the fiscal year that started Oct. 1."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**MLive.com: Sheriff Benny Napoleon wants \$20 million extra this year to jail Detroit's criminals**

[Full story](#)

## **The Daily Telegram/Adrian: County asking state Supreme Court to review airport house case**

"Lawyers are going back to the Michigan Supreme Court to ask justices to change their minds about not reviewing lower court rulings in an eight-year legal battle over the impact of the Lenawee County Airport on a Lake Madison home. The state Supreme Court issued an order dated Nov. 25 denying the county's application to appeal court rulings it must pay David and Barbara Wagley \$470,000 for their home."

[Full story](#)

## **Dome Magazine: Terry Barclay: A Conversation with SC Justice McCormack**

Terry Barclay interviews Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget Mary McCormack. Justice McCormack talks about her experience in her first year on the state's highest court.

[Full story](#)

## **Hometown Life Newspapers: Novi Judge MacKenzie calls prosecutor's allegations an error-filled attack**

"A district judge in Novi has shot back at a prosecutor's allegations that he broke the law in his courtroom. Judge Brian MacKenzie of the 52-1 District Court contends in court filings that the Oakland County prosecutor's complaint against him is rife with factual and legal errors."

[Full story](#)

## **Ingham County Legal News: Healer of Controversy: New Peacekeeping Court will help ease relationship conflicts**

"A dream has come true for Washtenaw County Trial Court Judge Timothy Connors who will oversee a new Peacemaking Court thanks to a yearlong grant from the state's Court Performance Innovation Fund."

[Full story](#)

## **Macomb County Legal News: Getting into the holiday spirit**

"The Italian American Bar Association of Michigan (IABAM) held its Winter Gala Dinner Dance recently at the Detroit Athletic Club. [Among those attending were current and past IABAM officers as well as members of the bench including Michigan Supreme Court Justice David Viviano, Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Pat Donofrio and judges from Macomb, Oakland and Wayne Counties.]"

[Full story](#)

## **Midland Daily News: Mental Health bill package sent to the governor**

"Criminals who struggle with mental illness are one step closer to finding treatment instead of jail time. The House [Saturday] sent legislation to the governor that will statutorily create mental health courts across the state, announced state Rep. Kevin Cotter. House Bills 4694-4697 collectively create a new chapter in the Revised Judicature Act that codifies mental health courts."

[Full story](#)

## **Oakland County Legal News: Laddys presented: Legal Aid and Defender honors pro bono service**

"Legal Aid and Defender Association (LAD) honored two judges, a law firm, a corporate office of general counsel, and a number of individual attorneys at its third annual Laddy awards ceremony on Nov. 22 in the historic Chief Judge's Courtroom at the Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse in Detroit.... This year's Laddy winners were: ... Ed Pokorny Pioneer of Justice Award —Michael F. Sapala, retired Wayne County Circuit Court judge. Friend of LAD—Judge Charles G. Goedert of 43rd District Court, Hazel Park."

[Full story](#)

## **Oakland County Legal News: Courts closed**

"The Oakland County Circuit and Probate Courts will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 24-25, for the Christmas holiday.... The Michigan Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, and the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 24-25, for the Christmas holiday."

[Full story](#)

### **Petoskey News-Review: Charlevoix woman will run for judge**

"The first candidate for the 33rd Circuit Court judgeship in 2014 has announced her intent to run and it is familiar name in the county seat. Valerie K. Snyder, attorney and Charlevoix Public Schools Board of Education member serving her second term, announced this week she will be running to replace retiring 33rd Circuit Court Judge Richard M. Pajitas."

[Full story](#)

### **Saginaw News: Saginaw County judges ban cellphones, other devices from courtrooms, 'court-related space'**

"Starting Monday [December 16], visitors to the Saginaw County Governmental Center who have business with the courts will need to leave their cellphones in their cars. That's because Saginaw County's judges are banning cellphones from each of the county's 13 courtrooms and related areas.... The ban also includes computers and tablets and any other device 'capable of communicating information from one person to another.' "

[Full story](#)

### **Traverse City Record-Eagle: Koon to serve up to 15 years**

"Rodney Koon once stood triumphant over Grand Traverse County in a case that changed Michigan's medical marijuana laws. But Friday he left a 13th Circuit courtroom in handcuffs on his way to serve a maximum 15-year prison sentence for felony sex crimes.... The May 31 assault occurred just one day after his victory in the Michigan Supreme Court that reshaped the state's 'zero tolerance' approach toward medical marijuana patients who get behind the wheel and drive."

[Full story](#)

### **Traverse City Record-Eagle: Editorial: Snyder has opportunity to act for transparency**

"Every once in a great while, someone in the political class has an idea that makes so much sense you know it is doomed. Such was the case with a recent suggestion by Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, who proposed requiring public disclosure of most third-party campaign spending."

[Full story](#)